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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001360

SIPDIS

DEPT. FOR P, EUR, EUR/SE, NEA AND NEA/NGA;  
NSC FOR AMB. KHALILZAD;  
OSD FOR USDP LUTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/03/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREF](#) [PHUM](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#) [UNSC](#)

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRAQ: "HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS" DEMONSTRATE  
AGAINST TURKISH INTERVENTION IN IRBIL, TURKISH FLAGS BURNED

Classified by DCM Robert Deutsch. Reasons 1.5 b and d.

(C) Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Ankara rep Bahros Galali called Operation Northern Watch POLAD March 3 to report that in Irbil, northern Iraq, approximately "300,000 people" had marched from the regional parliament building to the UN compound in a peaceful demonstration earlier in the day protesting the possibility of Turkish military intervention in northern Iraq. Galali said that some participants burned Turkish flags and that the GOT was already complaining about the activity. We will try to learn more and report as more information becomes available.  
PEARSON